

This I Believe

Who are the happiest people in the world? Children. When I was young, I was very easily pleased and the memories I had of my childhood were very often joyful ones. I knew near to nothing about the world and yet it was then when I were the most contented and happy. Thus, I believe that ignorance is bliss.

Ignorance is bliss. I can honestly tell you that from personal experiences. When I was young, I used to think of the world as a beautiful place as I used to watch cartoons where the world was perfect and whenever something bad appeared, a superhero would exterminate the evil. I thought that reality worked in the same way and I never worried about anything because I thought nothing could harm me. However, as I grew older, I learnt more. I learnt about World War II and how the Japanese tortured the Chinese, about global warming and about the crimes that took place. As I learnt more, I worried more. I worried about whether there would be another war, whether our earth would truly give out on us one day or what harm might come upon me. These worries caused me to feel more anxious and anxiety filled up the place in my heart which was once filled with joy. I never worried about matters when I was young as I never had anything to worry about. My ignorance made me happy.

Ignorance is bliss. When I was in primary school, I never worried about examinations as I did not know about their importance then and I could even play games before an examination. However, as I grew older, my family and teachers started to put more pressure on me. They explained to me how important examinations were and how bad grades could affect my future negatively. I became more stressed out and my school became a more competitive place as compared to before. Now, I always worry about examinations and my grades. I feel upset whenever I receive results that are not up to my expectations. School is no longer the fun-filled, stress-free place it was when I was a child. Sure, knowing about the importance of my grades was necessary, but now that I know, I put more pressure on myself causing me to be more unhappy than before. I used to think that school was a fun and carefree place and I never felt stressed or worried. My ignorance made me happy.

As I learn more, I know more about the bad things that may happen around me and I realize that it would be impossible to prevent horrible things from happening. This causes worry and stress which take away my happiness. However, when I was young, I knew nothing and that resulted in a beautiful picture of the world in my mind. I had nothing to worry about or to be stressed out about, so I was happy. I was happy when I was ignorant.